Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00181 01 OF 02 070124Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
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R 061434Z APR 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2722
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0181

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: APRIL 6 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

AT THE 166TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WAS HELD ON APRIL 6, UK REP (BOLLAND) BOTH CHAIRED THE MEETING AND DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENT. IN HIS PRESENTATION, BOLLAND STRESSED THAT EASTERN ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING THE BUILD-UP OF WESTERN FORCES IN THE REDUC-TION AREA DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO CREATING THE CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE REQUIRED FOR PROGRESS IN THE TALKS. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE UK STATEMENT, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, WERE:

1) THE TASK OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS IS TO REACH
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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00181 01 OF 02 070124Z

AN AGREEMENT WHICH INCREASES STABILITY AND STRENGTHENS PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE.

2) THE WEST IS CONCERNED THAT NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THESE TALKS SINCE AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE AN IM-PORTANT ELEMENT IN CONSOLIDATING AND STRENGTHENING DETENTE.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

3) WESTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR DESIRE FOR PROGRESS BY MAKING NUMEROUS MOVES TO MEET EASTERN CONCERNS, IN PARTICULAR THE DECEMBER 1975 WESTERN OFFER TO REDUCE AND LIMIT SPECIFIED US NUCLEAR ELEMENTS AND TO INCLUDE AIR MANPOWER UNDER A COMBINED COMMON CEILING.

4) IN CONTRAST TO THIS WESTERN MOVE WHICH SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED THE OUTCOME ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY THE WEST FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS, THE EAST HAS NOT PUT FORWARD ANY PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY ALTER THE OUTCOME ENVISAGED IN ITS INITIAL POSITION.

5) THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 1976 PROPOSAL, DESPITE EASTERN CLAIMS TO THE CONTRARY, IS A CASE IN POINT AND THUS IS ONLY A TOKEN RESPONSE TO THE WEST'S DECEMBER 1975 PROPOSALS.

6) THE EAST'S FAILURE CONSTRUCTIVELY TO ADDRESS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES IN THESE TALKS IS GIVING RISE TO CONCERN AND DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE WEST.

7) EASTERN ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING WESTERN FORCE INCREASES IN CENTRAL EUROPE DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE REAL ISSUES IN THE TALKS AND ARE NOT CONDUCIVE TO PROGRESS.
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8) FOR THEIR PART, WESTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE NOT TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN COMMETING ON EASTERN FORCE INCREASES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

9) WHILE BOTH EAST AND WEST HAVE BEEN MODERNIZING THEIR FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA DURING THESE TALKS, THE EAST HAS STRENGTHENED ITS FORCES IN PARTICULAR BY QUANTITATIVELY AND QUALITATIVELY IMPROVING ITS MAJOR ARMAMENTS DESPITE THE ALREADY LARGE NUMERICAL SUPERIORITIES IT POSSESSED IN MILITARY MANPOWER AND MOST MAJOR ARMAMENTS.

10) IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, BOTH THE CONCERN IN THE WEST OVER THE EAST'S POSTURE IN THESE TALKS AND THE FORCE IMPROVEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE WEST TO ASSURE ITS COLLECTIVE DEFENSE ARE QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE.

11) THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE WEST ARE A REACTION TO THE CONTINUED EASTERN BUILD-UP AND HAVE NECESSARILY TAKEN PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF THE DESTABILIZING GROUND FORCE SUPERIORITIES ENJOYED BY THE EAST.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

12) DESPITE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE EASTERN BUILD-UP,
THE WEST HAS REFRAINED FROM INTRODUCING A POLEMICAL

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00181 02 OF 02 070107Z
ACTION ACDA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0181

TONE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS SINCE ACCUSATIONS SUCH AS
THE EAST HAS BEEN MAKING REGARDING THE INTENSIFICATION
OF THE ARMS RACE DO NOT HELP IN ACHIEVING THE OB-
JECTIVES OF THESE TALKS OR IN CREATING THE CONSTRUC-
TIVE ATOMOSPHERE REQUIRED FOR PROGRESS.

13) SIMILARLY, THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL WOULD NOT
HELP ACHIEVE PROGRESS AS IT WOULD SERVE TO CONTRACTUALIZE
THE EAST'S SUPERIORITY IN MILITARY MANPOWER TO THE
DETRIMENT OF WESTERN SECURITY.

14) MOREOVER, IN THE ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT ON DATA ON
MILITARY MANPOWER, SUCH A FREEZE COULD ONLY BE A
PERMANENT SOURCE OF CONTENTION.

15) PARTICIPANTS SHOULD NOT PURSUE TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS
OF UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE TO THE EAST BUT SHOULD MOVE TO-
WARD AN AGREEMENT ON REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS WHICH
WOULD ENHANCE STABILITY IN EUROPE.
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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

16) THE EAST SHOULD RE-EXAMINE ITS POSITION WITH A VIEW TO MEETING WESTERN CONCERNS, A STEP THAT IS LONG OVERDUE AND ONE WHICH WOULD BE ESPECIALLY TIMELY GIVEN THE NEW OPPORTUNITIES THAT NOW EXIST FOR PROGRESS IN THE DATA DISCUSSION.

17) A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT ON REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS CAN ONLY BE CONSTRUCTED ON THE BASIS OF MUTUALLY AGREED DATA.

18) THE EFFORTS TO DISCOVER THE SOURCES OF DISCREPANCY BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN FIGURES FOR WP FORCES REPRESENT A FIRST STEP TOWARD ESTABLISHING SUCH A BASIS.

19) THESE EFFORTS SHOULD BE PURSUED TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION AS THIS WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AN EARLY FORCE REDUCTION AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD, IN TURN, MAKE THAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROCESS OF DETENTE LONG EXPECTED OF THE VIENNA TALKS.RESOR

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